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Stephen's-green; Randal McDonnell, Allen's-court; Arthur Guinness, James's-gate; and William Harding, Lower Mount-street, be requested to receive the same.

Resolved, That a general meeting of the subscribers be held at the Trustee's room, in the Royal Exchange, on Saturday, the 14th inst. at eleven o'clock.

JOHN LELAND MAQUAY, Chairman.

*At a Meeting of the Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland, pursuant to public advertisement, at the Royal Exchange, on Saturday, the 14th December, 1811.*

PETER DIGGES LA TOUCHE, ESQ. in the Chair.

Resolved, That all Subscribers of not less than Ten Guineas of a donation, and One Guinea annually, shall be considered Members of this Society.

Resolved, That the affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee of twenty-one members, to be annually elected, who shall report to a general meeting, to be held on the second Monday in May, in each year.

Resolved, That a committee be now appointed, of eleven members, with liberty for them to elect ten others to their number, who shall solicit subscriptions, and take such other measures as they may deem necessary to forward the object of the Society, and report the same to a general meeting, to be held on the second Monday in May next—three to be a quorum on said committee.

The following committee were then appointed:

Peter Digges La Touche, Bank, Castle-street; John Leland Maquay, Stephen's-green; Samuel Bewley, Meath-street; John Barrington, Great Britain-street; Luke M'Grath, Grenville-street; Arthur Guinness, James's-gate; Thomas H. Orpen, South Frederick-street; Edward Allen, Upper Bridge-street; William Todhunter, Holles-street; Thomas Parnell, 25, Merrion-square, North; Doctor Thorpe, Gardiner-street.

The Committee, thus appointed, announce to the public, that they are ready to receive subscriptions—and that from among those who shall subscribe, they will complete their number on the 24th day of January next.

The Subscriptions will be published as received.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE EDUCATION OF THE POOR OF IRELAND.

The education of the poor of Ireland,

is a grand object, which every Irishman anxious for the welfare and prosperity of his country, should have in view, as the basis upon which its morals and true happiness can be best secured. It is therefore considered highly important, that Schools should be opened, divested of all Sectarian distinctions in every part of the arrangement.

To forward this measure, a Society has been formed, and denominated, "The Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland."

All Subscribers of not less than Ten Guineas, and a donation of One Guinea annually, shall be considered members thereof.

The affairs of the Society are to be conducted by a Committee of 21 members, to be annually elected, who shall report to a general meeting, to be held on the second Monday in May each year.

The object of the Society being to promote the establishment and facilitate the conducting of schools, wherein the poor of Ireland may be instructed in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, in a cheap and expeditious way, and without Sectarian distinctions, have adopted the following plan of procedure.

They will give information upon the subject of erecting and fitting up of School-houses upon a suitable plan, and so far as their funds will allow, they will contribute to the expense that may be incurred upon this head by local Associations.

They will assist in procuring properly qualified School Masters.

They will furnish Stationary, Books, Slates, and other articles necessary for Schools, at reduced prices.

And they recommend the plan practised by Mr. Joseph Lancaster giving a Scriptural education, and combining therewith economy and method, as well adapted to meet the circumstances of the Poor of Ireland. And they further recommend that in the Schools to be founded, there be no distinction on account of religious opinions in Managers, Instructors, or Scholars, and that Catechisms, and Books of Religious Controversy, be excluded.

*Brief statement of the British Orders in Council, and the French Decrees.*

On the 16th of April, in the year 1806, an order was issued from the British council chamber, and in the following month a declaration was made to America, through

her minister at the court of London, in virtue of that order, that, in consequence of his Majesty the King of Prussia having seized upon the Electorate of Hanover, America, and all the other neutral powers, were to consider the entrance of the Ems, the Weser, the Elbe, and the Trave, in a state of blockade, which blockade was afterwards extended to the port of Brest; but it being notoriously impossible to maintain such a system by actual force, this was not inaptly styled a *paper blockade*.

On the 21st of Nov. 1806, Bonaparte having in the mean time conquered Prussia, issued from the metropolis of that kingdom the document called the *Berlin Decree*, which retaliates on the British order of the 16th of April, by declaring England in a state of blockade, and prohibiting the commerce of all neutral nations with this country.

On the 7th of January, 1807, the British ministry issued a fresh Order in council, to *retaliate* upon the Berlin Decree; the substance of which order was, that no neutral vessel should be allowed to trade to any port of France, or to any port of her Allies so much "under French controul as that British vessels may not freely trade thereto."

On the 11th of November, 1807, another of the series of British Orders was issued, directing that neutral vessels bound for the ports of France, or of her Allies under French controul, should undergo a search by British cruisers, or should proceed in the first instance to England, and pay a per centage upon their cargoes.

These Orders called forth another *retaliatory Decree*, issued by Napoleon from Milan, on the 7th of December, 1807, which directed, "That every ship, to whatever nation it may belong, that shall have submitted to be searched by English ships, or to a voyage to England, or that shall have paid any tax whatsoever to the English Government, shall for that alone be declared to be *denationalized*, and to have forfeited the protection of its government, shall have become English property, and as such shall be seizable, either in a French port, or by French cruisers, and adjudged to the captors."

This produced more British Orders of *retaliation*, in the spirit of the former, and the last of which was issued in April, 1809.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*The Committee, to whom was referred that part of the President's message which refers to our Foreign affairs, beg leave to report in part—*

That they have endeavoured to give to the subject submitted to them, that full and dispassionate consideration which is due to one so intimately connected with the interest, the peace, the safety, and the honour of the country.

Your committee will not encumber your journals and waste your patience with a detailed history of all the various matters growing out of our foreign relations. The cold recital of wrongs, of injuries, of aggressions, known and felt by every member of this union, could have no other effect than to deaden the national sensibility and render the public mind callous to injuries with which it is already too familiar.

Without recurring then to the multiplied wrongs of partial or temporary operation, of which we have so just cause of complaint against the two great belligerents, your committee will only call your attention, at this time, to the systematic aggression of those powers, authorised by their edicts, against neutral commerce; a system which, as regarded its principles, was founded on pretensions that went to the subversion of our national independence; and which, although now abandoned by one power, is, in its broad and destructive operation, as still enforced by the other, sapping the foundation of our prosperity.

It is more than five years since England and France in violation of those principles of justice and public law, held sacred by all civilized nations, commenced this unprecedented system, by seizing the property of the citizens of the United States peaceably pursuing their lawful commerce on the high seas. To shield themselves from the odium which such outrage must incur, each of the Belligerents sought a pretext in the conduct of the other—each attempting to justify his system of rapine as a retaliation for similar acts on the part of his enemy. As if the law of nations, founded on eternal justice, could sanction a principal, which, if ingrafted into our municipal code, would excuse the crime of one robber, upon the sole plea that the unfortunate object of his rapacity, was also a victim to the injustice of another. The fact of priority could be true as to one only of the parties; and whether true